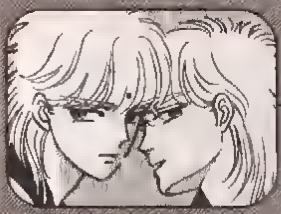
CIPHER

Volume 8

By Minako Narita

WHO'S WHO IN CIPHER



Siva & Cipher

Siva (Jake) & Cipher (Roy) identical twin brothers made famous by their childhood acting success. They used to share not just a face, but also a single identity. Now that Cipher has moved away to Los Angeles, it's time for the twins to come into their own.

Anise

Schoolmate and good friend of the twins. She was on the verge of taking her relationship with Cipher to a romantic level but it didn't quite work out. Now she has to adjust to Cipher being completely gone from her life and finds herself in the role of watching over his brother.

The Story So Far...

The death of their friend Dane brought about a major turning point in the life of the twins. They decided it was finally time to live apart and try to establish their individual careers and identities. Cipher (Roy) moved to Los Angeles and asked their friend Anise to keep a watchful eye over his brother Siva (Jake).

The twins try to move on in their own way, though both have taken on new roommates. Cipher has moved in with Hal–someone very different from anyone he's known–but who's nevertheless proven to be a good, casual friend. Siva, on the other hand, has met Alex, a model who shares a connection with the late Dane. Siva's relationship with Alex seems to be something more than just a friendship, and it looks as if he is going to fill the role that Cipher once had in Siva's life.

Ignoring him
WIPE
WIPE
HEY, YOU'RE DOING A REAL GOOD JOB ON YOUR SHOES THERE.
HEY, ROY. PLEASE?
DUDE, HOW ABOUT DOING MY SHOES, TOO?
WHA
DO IT YOURSELF.
CK

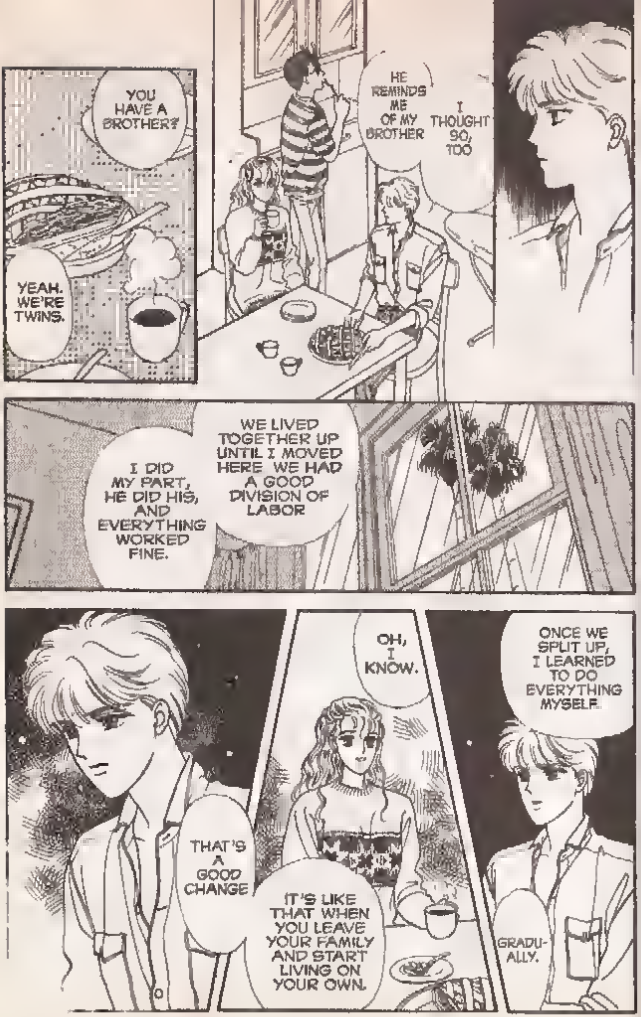
CIPHER
サイファ
Scene 10: PERSONA

KICKING SOMEONE IN THE FACE LIKE THAT!
IS THAT HOW YOU TREAT YOUR FRIENDS?!
OH, GIMME A BREAK!
I DIDN'T KICK YOU, I *HIT* YOU.
I *FELT* LIKE I WAS KICKED, SO I WAS KICKED.
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW CHILDISH THAT SOUNDS? GROW UP!
THAT WAS REALLY *UNCOOL!*

WHAT ABOUT ME?!
YOU'RE INFAMOUS ON THIS CAMPUS
ME?! WHAT ABOUT YOU?!
TELL HIM TO GROW UP, YUP SARAH EVERY-DAY.
C'MON, YOU TWO!
ARE YOU ALWAYS LIKE THIS?
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'D TRY SOMETHING AS DANGEROUS AS HACKING.
I DIDN'T MEAN TO DO IT!
I WAS JUST PLAYING AROUND WITH ONE OF THE TERMINALS, AND PUNCHED IN THE PASSWORD BY ACCIDENT.
SARAH!
HAL CAN DO ALL KINDS OF INTERESTING THINGS BY ACCIDENT.
HOW DO YOU PUT IN A PASSWORD "BY ACCIDENT?"

BUT HE WAS JUST FAKING IT UNTIL WE AGREED HE'D LIVE HERE!
But I didn't do anything, but the dead!
YOU'RE ALL SO CRUEL!
... EVERYBODY JUST STOOD THERE AND STARED. NO ONE TRIED TO HELP ME.
EVEN WHEN I WAS LATER SURROUNDED ON CAMPUS BY F.B.I. AGENTS...
AND THIS GUY CHANGED ON ME.
AT FIRST, HE DID THE COOKING AND CLEANING.
OH... THEN WHO'S DOING THE HOUSEHOLD CHORES NOW?
GIMME SOME PIE.
Yes, yes.
HE IS.
TEA, PLEASE.

EVIL SPIRIT
HAL.
YOU'RE LIKE AN EVIL SPIRIT CURSING ME.
HOW'S THIS FOR ATMOSPHERE?
THAT'S PERFECT.
IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE GETTING ALONG WITH HAL.
WHAT A GREAT TEAM!
ACTUALLY, IT FEELS LIKE THINGS HAVE CHANGED A LITTLE FROM WHEN YOU FIRST MET.
THINK SO?
Sorry to hear that, sweetie.


YOU HAVE A BROTHER?
YEAH. WE'RE TWINS.
HE REMINDS ME OF MY BROTHER
I THOUGHT SO, TOO
WE LIVED TOGETHER UP UNTIL I MOVED HERE. WE HAD A GOOD DIVISION OF LABOR
I DID MY PART, HE DID HIS, AND EVERYTHING WORKED FINE.
THAT'S A GOOD CHANGE
IT'S LIKE THAT WHEN YOU LEAVE YOUR FAMILY AND START LIVING ON YOUR OWN.
OH, I KNOW.
ONCE WE SPLIT UP, I LEARNED TO DO EVERYTHING MYSELF.
GRADUALLY.

IN THE TWO MONTHS SINCE THEN...
...THINGS WERE GOING SO WELL. OUR INITIAL WORRIES SEEMED SILLY.

ANIME REALLY IS ANIME, IF YOU ONLY LOOK TO SEE IF IT'S LIKE THE ORIGINAL MANGA THEN OF COURSE IT NEVER IS. BUT YOU CAN ALSO APPRECIATE THE GOOD PARTS OF ANIME. THE THINGS ONLY ANIME CAN DO. BECAUSE IT MOVES! SEEING CHIBI RYAN FOOTBALL OR RYAN MOVE HIS EYES LOOKS SO FRESH!

AND THERE'S EVEN SOUND! FOR ME, WHO REALLY REGRETS THAT MANGA DOESN'T HAVE SOUND, I ABSOLUTE LOVE SEEING IT WHEN THE SOUND MATCHES SO PERFECTLY TO THE IMAGE. I WAS SO EXCITED WHEN I HEARD THAT THE THOMPSON TWINS, WHO I LOVE SO MUCH, HAD LET US USE A SONG, I NEARLY FAINTED.

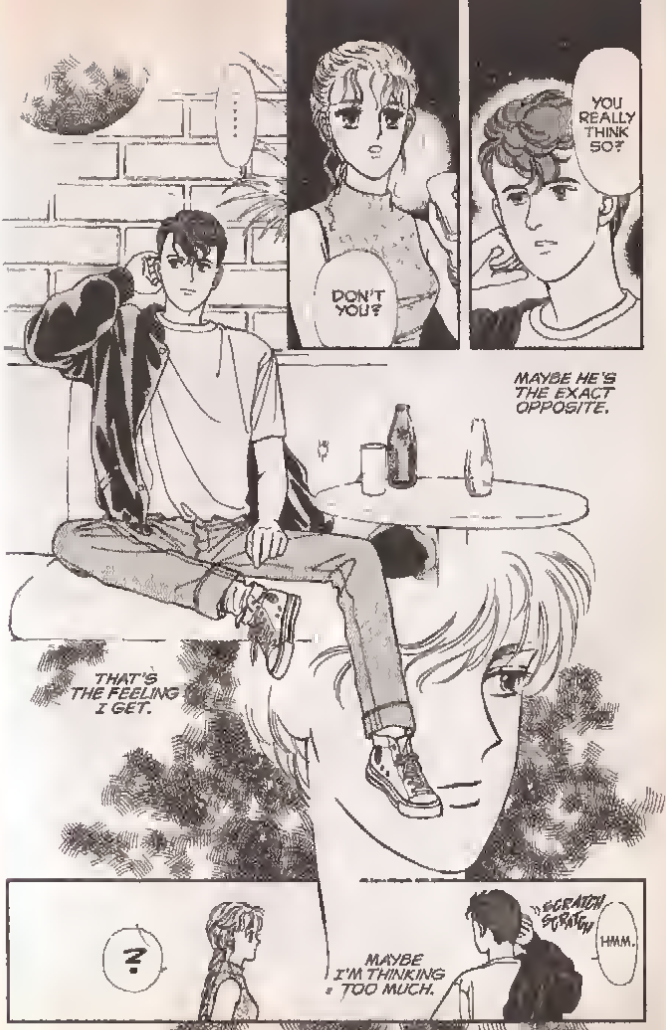
I WROTE ABOUT MY DREAMS OF THE THOMPSON TWINS IN VOLUME 6. BUT SINCE THEN THERE HASN'T BEEN MUCH NEWS.

HEY!
OKAY! HERE THEY CO...

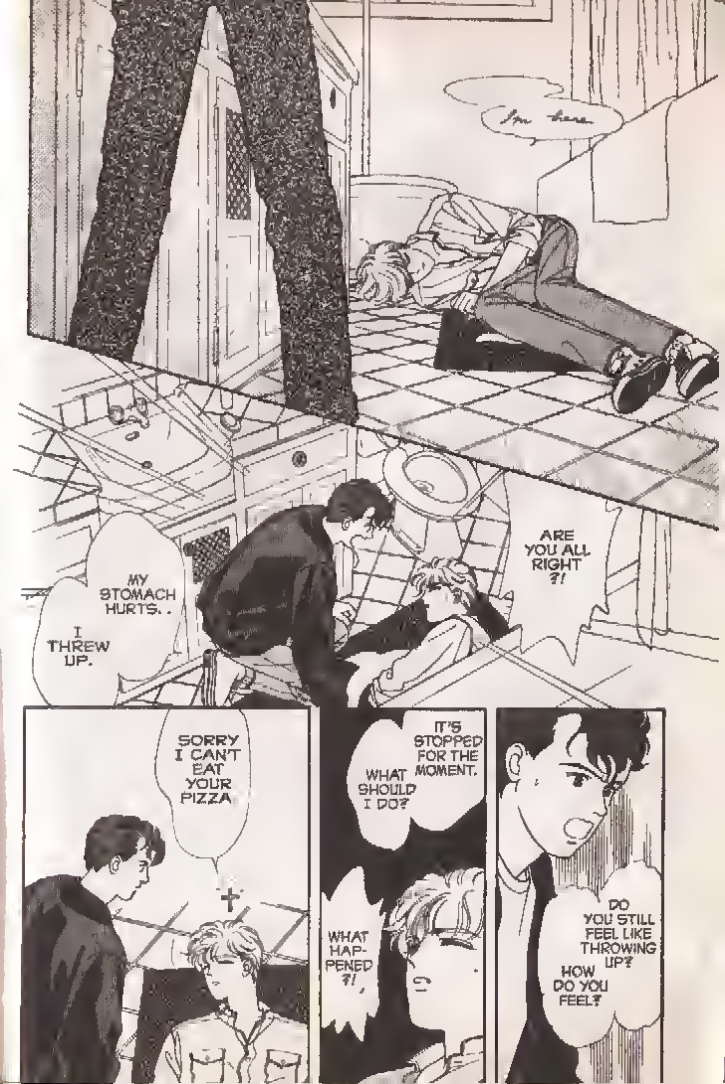
WHAT'S UP, HAL?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? WHY AREN'T YOU IN SCHOOL?
OH.
SCHOOL'S FINISHED ALREADY.
REALLY? IS IT THAT LATE?
WE'VE GOT AN EVENING SHOOT AFTER THIS, SO I WON'T BE HOME TILL LATE.
HAVE DINNER BY YOURSELF.

YOU SEEM TO BE TAKING ON AN AWFUL LOT.
IT'S GOOD TO HAVE WORK, BUT AREN'T YOU DOING TOO MUCH?
I'M IN NO POSITION TO CHOOSE.
YOU LOOK A LITTLE TIRED.
.....
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
THANKS FOR ASKING, THOUGH.
WHEN THIS IS ALL OVER, I'LL HAVE A WEEK OFF.
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
ABOUT HIM?

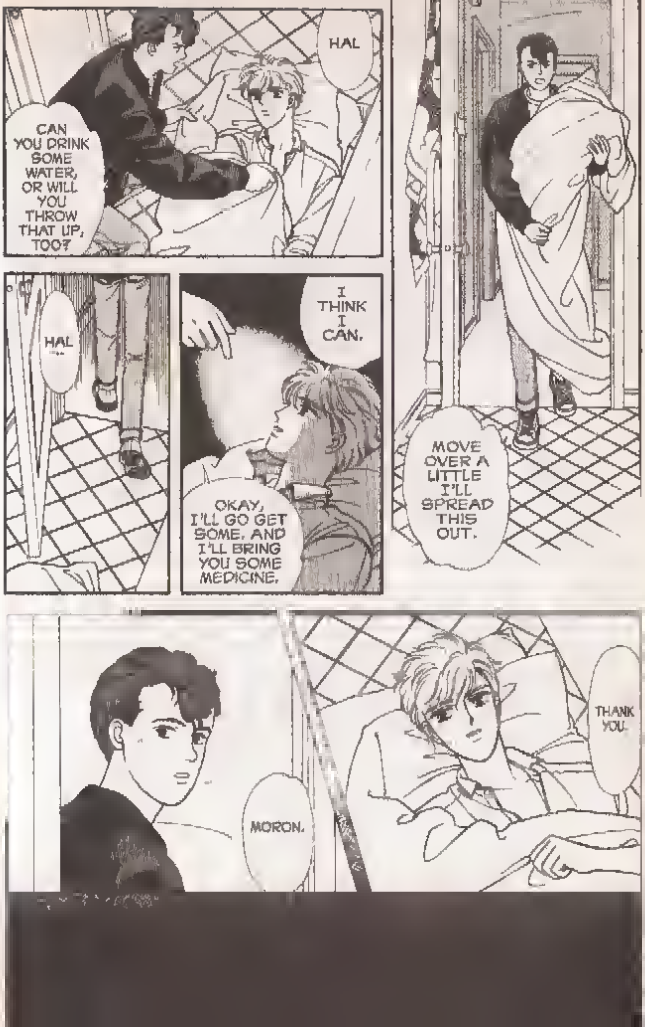
WHO DO YOU MEAN?
ROY.
ABOUT HIS PERSONALITY.
WHAT DO YOU THINK HE'S LIKE?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "WHAT DO I THINK?"
HE'S OUTGOING AND FRIENDLY ...
AND HE'S GOT A PRETTY SINCERE WAY OF EXPRESSING HIMSELF.
WELL ...
I'D HEARD HE WAS REALLY CONSIDERATE TO OTHERS...
BUT HE CAN ALSO BE PRETTY TOUGH.
SINCERE.
LIKE HIS STRESS DOESN'T BUILD UP?
YES, PROBABLY.


DON'T YOU?
YOU REALLY THINK SO?
MAYBE HE'S THE EXACT OPPOSITE.
THAT'S THE FEELING I GET.
?
MAYBE I'M THINKING TOO MUCH.
SCRATCH SCRATCH
HMM.

KLATCH
I'M HOME.
AND I GOT PIZZA!
ROY?
ARE YOU HERE?

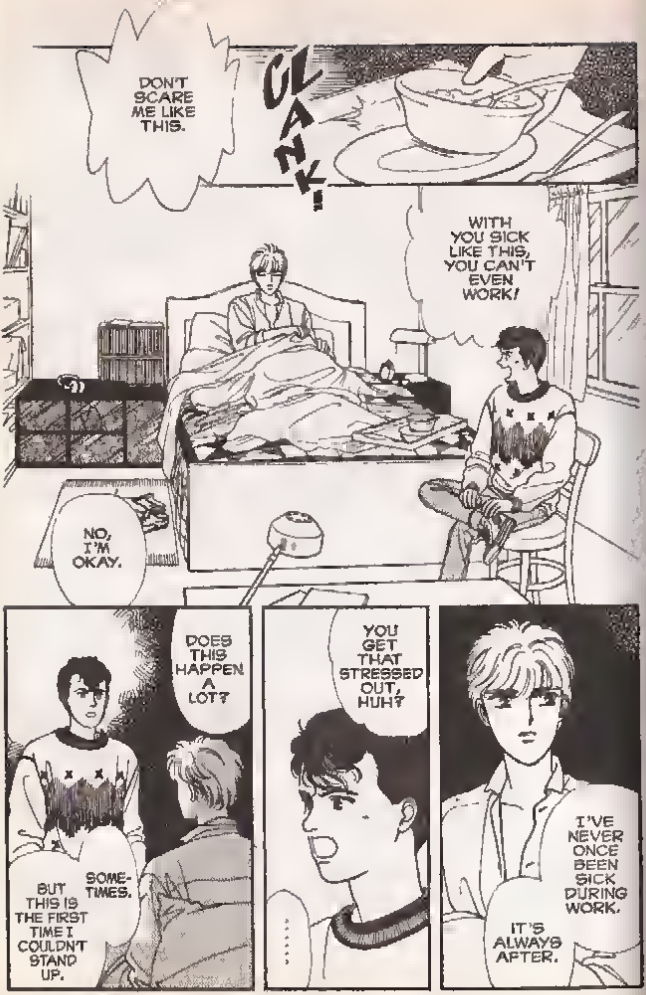

I'm here
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!
MY STOMACH HURTS. . I THREW UP.
SORRY I CAN'T EAT YOUR PIZZA
IT'S STOPPED FOR THE MOMENT. WHAT SHOULD I DO?
WHAT HAPPENED?!
DO YOU STILL FEEL LIKE THROWING UP? HOW DO YOU FEEL?

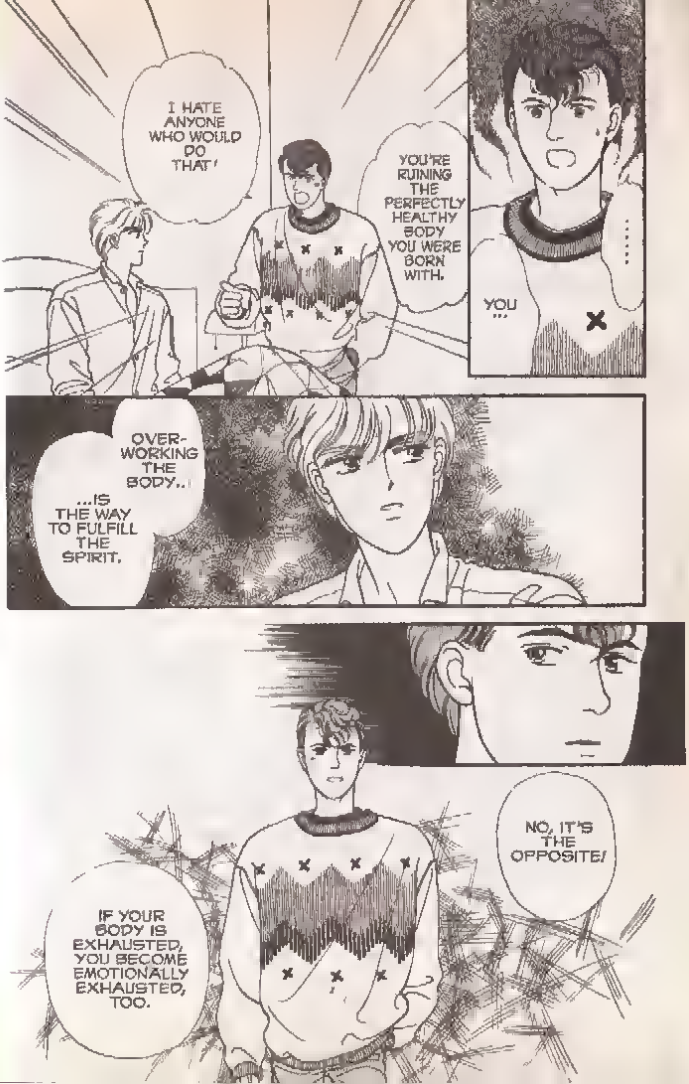
FORGET ABOUT ME, YOU IDIOT!
YOU SHOULD BE WORRIED ABOUT YOUR-SELF!
SLAP
CAN YOU STAND UP?
.....
RUSTLE
SLAM
DON'T EVEN TRY IT!
IF I REST A LITTLE, I CAN MAKE IT TO MY ROOM BY MYSELF.
RATTLE
KLAK
KLIK
JUST STAY THERE! I'LL BE BACK!


HAL
CAN YOU DRINK SOME WATER, OR WILL YOU THROW THAT UP, TOO?
MOVE OVER A LITTLE I'LL SPREAD THIS OUT.
HAL
I THINK I CAN.
OKAY, I'LL GO GET SOME. AND I'LL BRING YOU SOME MEDICINE.
THANK YOU.
MORON.

ROY?
TIME FOR YOUR MEDICINE.
UH ...
I USED IT A FEW TIMES WHILE YOU'VE BEEN IN HERE.
YOU GOTTA GET SOMETHING IN YOUR STOMACH.
CAN YOU EAT THIS?
IT'S GOOD ...
THERE YOU GO.
SORRY TO HOG THE BATHROOM
IS IT A PROBLEM?
NO.
YOU SLEPT LIKE THE DEAD, SO YOU PROBABLY DIDN'T NOTICE.
GET SOME MORE SLEEP.

EVERY TIME YOU WAKE UP, YOU GET A LITTLE BETTER.
SLEEP WELL.
NNN


DON'T SCARE ME LIKE THIS.
CLANK!
WITH YOU SICK LIKE THIS, YOU CAN'T EVEN WORK!
NO, I'M OKAY.
DOES THIS HAPPEN A LOT?
SOME-TIMES.
BUT THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I COULDN'T STAND UP.
YOU GET THAT STRESSED OUT, HUH?
.....
I'VE NEVER ONCE BEEN SICK DURING WORK.
IT'S ALWAYS AFTER.


I HATE ANYONE WHO WOULD DO THAT!
YOU'RE RUINING THE PERFECTLY HEALTHY BODY YOU WERE BORN WITH.
YOU ...
OVER-WORKING THE BODY..
...IS THE WAY TO FULFILL THE SPIRIT.
NO, IT'S THE OPPOSITE!
IF YOUR BODY IS EXHAUSTED, YOU BECOME EMOTIONALLY EXHAUSTED, TOO.

I'M SORRY...
YOU GOTTA BUILD UP YOUR BODY, DUDE!
I CAN'T HAVE YOU GETTING SICK LIKE THIS ALL THE TIME
YOU GOTTA COMPLETELY RETHINK WHAT YOU'RE DOING.
WE'RE GOING SKIING THIS WEEKEND!

WHAT GREAT WEATHER!
GOOD THING IT'S SO CLEAR!
I HATE THE MOUNTAINS WHEN IT'S SNOWING.
IT WON'T SNOW ANY MORE. IT'S MELTING NOW
WHAT'S WITH YOU?
YOU PLAN TO SKI LIKE THAT?
COMPLETELY ORDINARY CLOTHES
I DON'T HAVE ANY SKIWEAR
YOU'RE THE ONE THAT LOOKS WEIRD
TOTALLY FAMOUS DESIGNER OUTFIT
.....
WHY?

THAT SOUNDS STUPID.
YOU GOTTA DRESS THE PART.
THE SLOPES ARE LIKE A STAGE.
I GUESS I DRESSED A LITTLE TOO CONSERVATIVELY.
HAVEN'T YOU EVER GONE SKIING BEFORE?
YEAH, BUT...

Sinkarh
OKAY
THEN WE'LL START EASY.
YAHOO!
SHUUUSH
C'MON!
HM

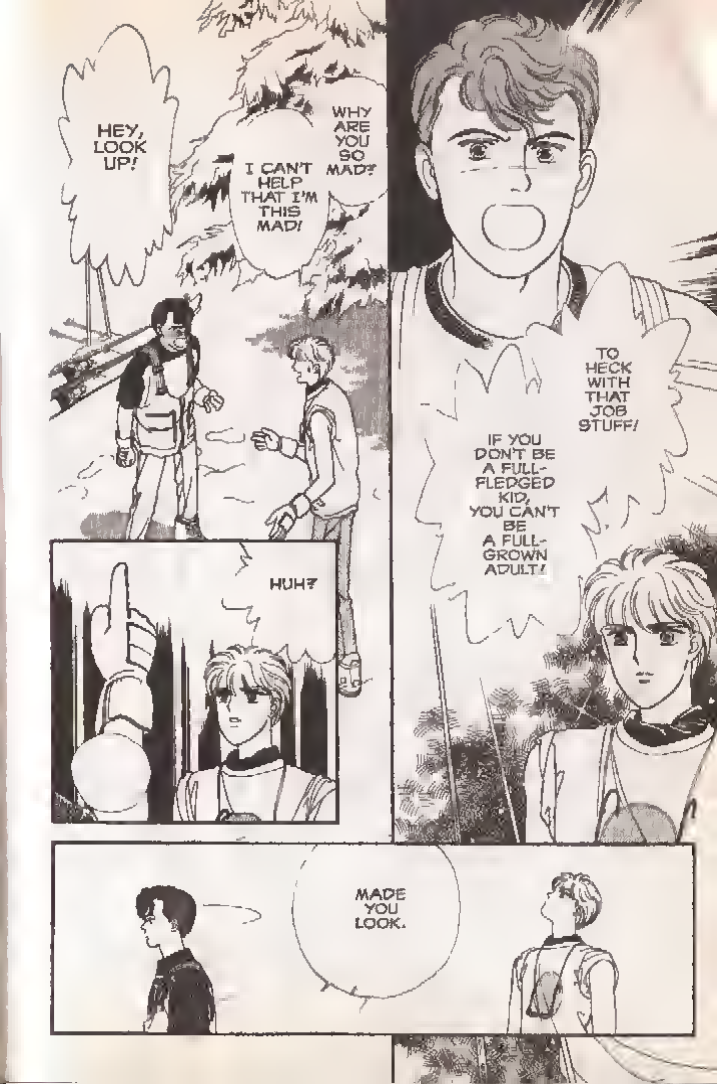
WHAT THE ..?
SHU
P

.....
(SIGH)
SHAAT
SHUP

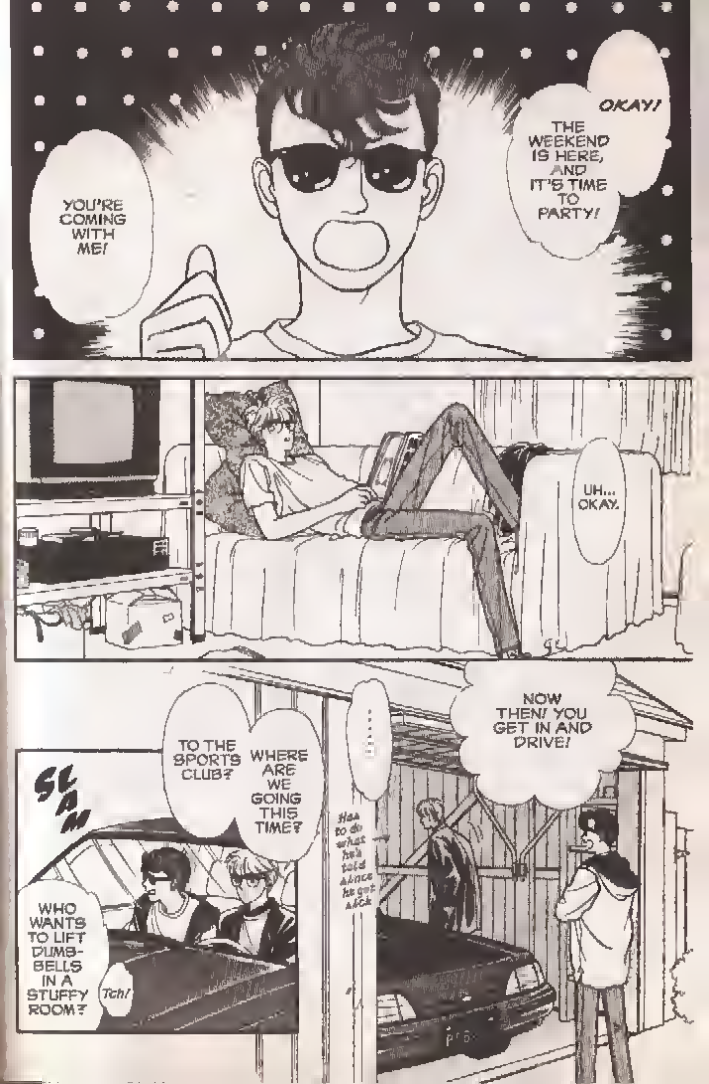
NUT
UH!
AGH!
HAL!
SHAAAAAA

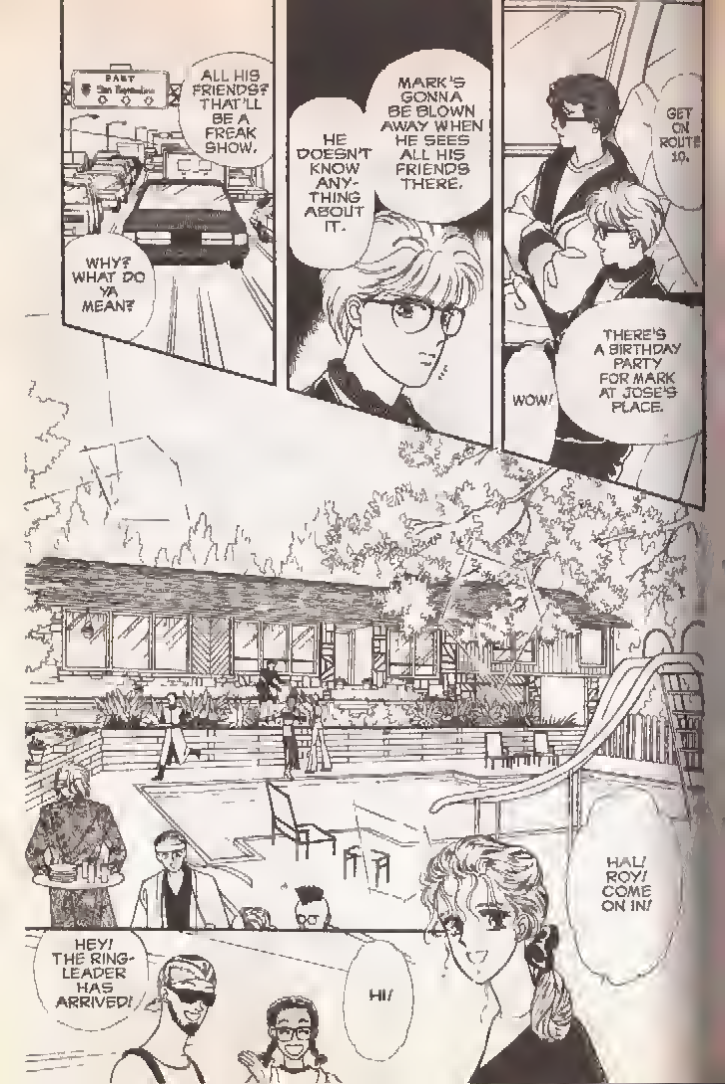
I'M DEAD
SIGH
IN NEW YORK, IT EVEN SNOWS ON THE FLAT-LANDS.
I USED TO GO TO THE MOUNTAINS A LOT.
YOU'RE PRETTY GOOD AT THIS.
?
YOU NEVER EVEN DID THAT?!
DIDN'T YOU EVER HORSE AROUND WITH YOUR FRIENDS IN WINTER?
I LOVE HOW YOU CAN SEE YOUR TRACKS IN THE SNOW.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

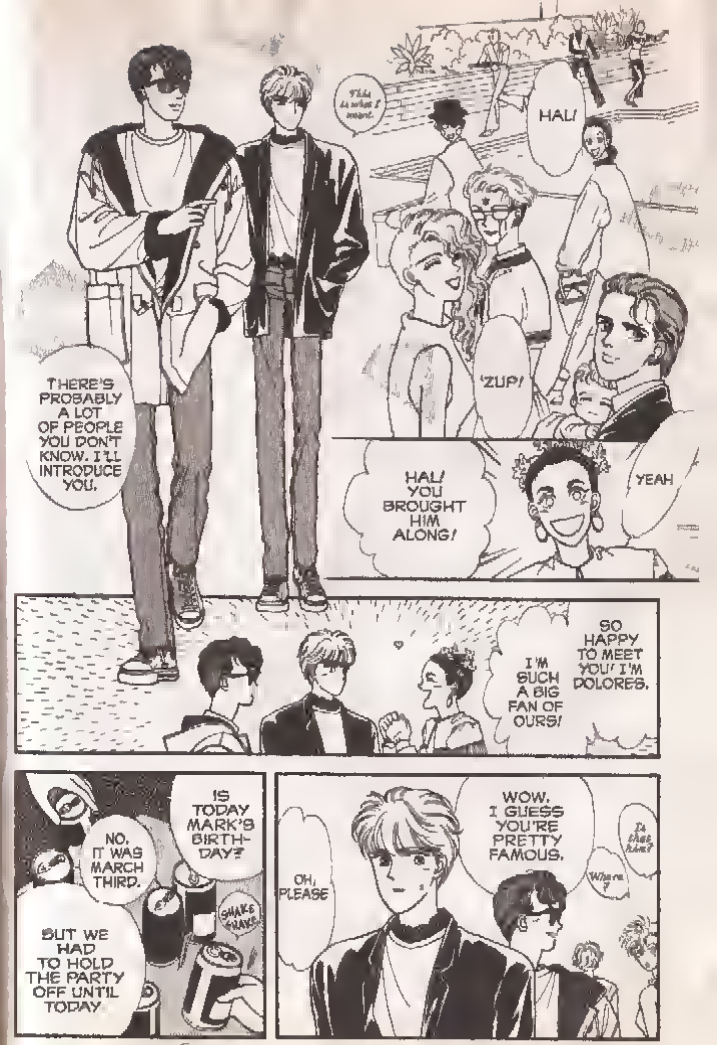
A shape of ice in the boat!
How to make a pit trap
I put the snow back on
YOU COVER A HOLE WITH ICICLES OR BRANCHES AND PILE ON SNOW.
WELL, WHAT ABOUT A TRAP?
BLINK
I WAS WORKING FROM THE TIME I WAS A KID.
I NEVER PLAYED ANY DANGEROUS GAMES.
WHAT THE...?
ARE YOU SAYING YOU NEVER PLAYED ARMY, OR TARZAN?
NOPE.
BUT YOU PLAY AROUND LIKE THAT WHEN YOU'RE OUT SKIING WITH YOUR FRIENDS, DON'T YOU?
I DIDN'T REALLY HAVE FRIENDS
APART FROM MY BROTHER.


HEY, LOOK UP!
I CAN'T HELP THAT I'M THIS MAD!
WHY ARE YOU SO MAD?
TO HECK WITH THAT JOB STUFF!
IF YOU DON'T BE A FULL-FLEDGED KID, YOU CAN'T BE A FULL-GROWN ADULT!
HUH?
MADE YOU LOOK.

YOU EVEN FALL FOR STUPID STUFF LIKE THAT.
MAN! YOU'RE PITIFUL!
.....
THIS GUY...
I'LL HAVE TO COMPLETELY RETRAIN HIM.

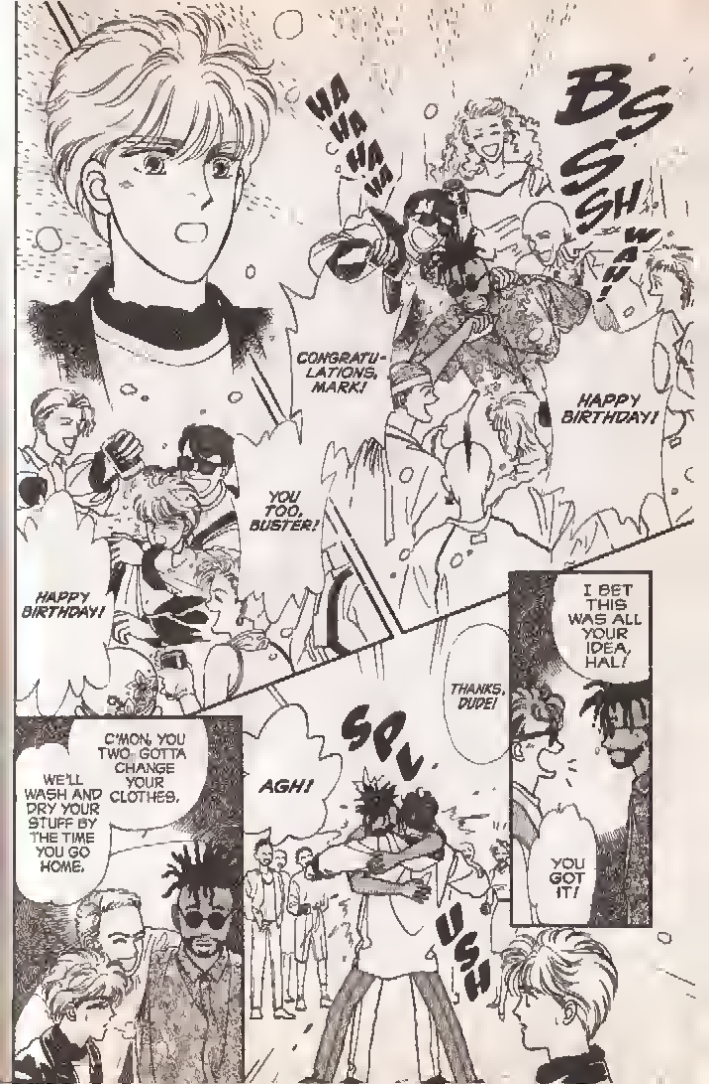

YOU'RE COMING WITH ME!
OKAY! THE WEEKEND IS HERE, AND IT'S TIME TO PARTY!
UH... OKAY.
NOW THEN! YOU GET IN AND DRIVE!
.....
Has to do what he's told since he got sick
WHERE ARE WE GOING THIS TIME?
TO THE SPORTS CLUB?
SLAM
WHO WANTS TO LIFT DUMB-BELLS IN A STUFFY ROOM?
Tch!


GET ON ROUTE 10.
THERE'S A BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR MARK AT JOSE'S PLACE.
WOW!
MARK'S GONNA BE BLOWN AWAY WHEN HE SEES ALL HIS FRIENDS THERE.
HE DOESN'T KNOW ANY-THING ABOUT IT.
ALL HIS FRIENDS? THAT'LL BE A FREAK SHOW.
WHY? WHAT DO YA MEAN?
HAL! ROY! COME ON IN!
HEY! THE RING-LEADER HAS ARRIVED!
HI!

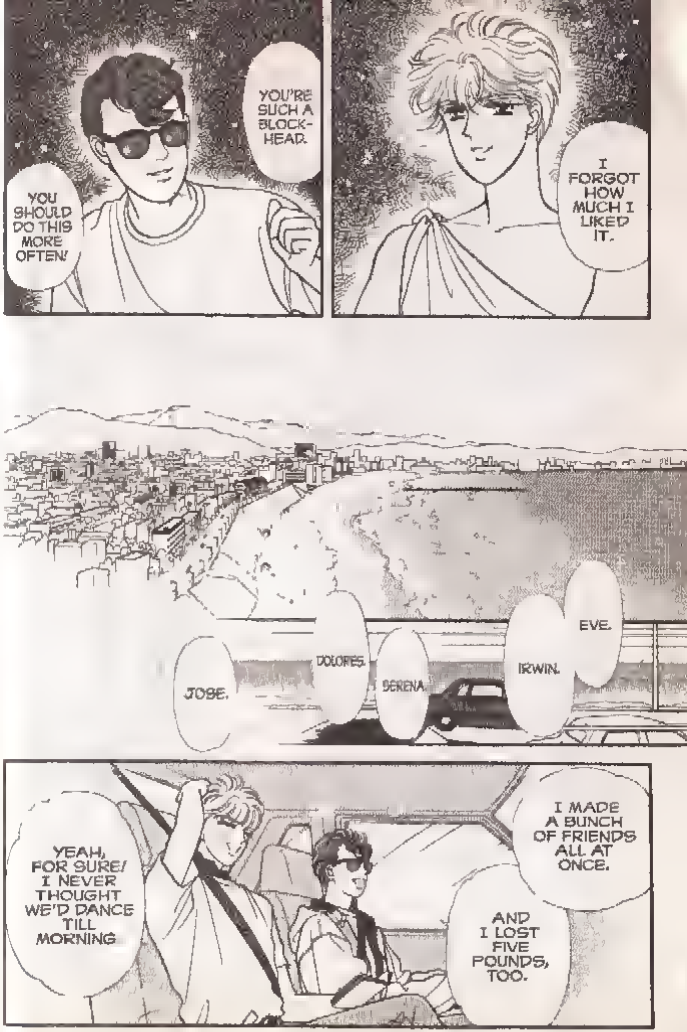

THERE'S PROBABLY A LOT OF PEOPLE YOU DON'T KNOW. I'LL INTRODUCE YOU.
THIS is what I want.
HA!
'ZUP!
HA! YOU BROUGHT HIM ALONG!
YEAH
SO HAPPY TO MEET YOU! I'M DOLORES.
I'M SUCH A BIG FAN OF OURS!
IS TODAY MARK'S BIRTH-DAY?
NO. IT WAS MARCH THIRD.
SHAKE SHAKE
BUT WE HAD TO HOLD THE PARTY OFF UNTIL TODAY.
WOW. I GUESS YOU'RE PRETTY FAMOUS.
Is that him?
Where?
OH, PLEASE

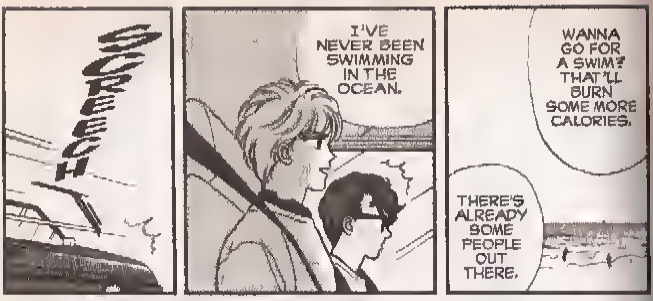
YOU JERK! WE'RE CELEBRATING IT TODAY!
DIDN'T YOU DO ANYTHING TO CELEBRATE?
WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY SOME-THING THEN?!
THAT WAS AFTER WE MET!
WHEN'S YOURS?
LAST MONTH. FEBRUARY FOURTH
DING DONG
?!

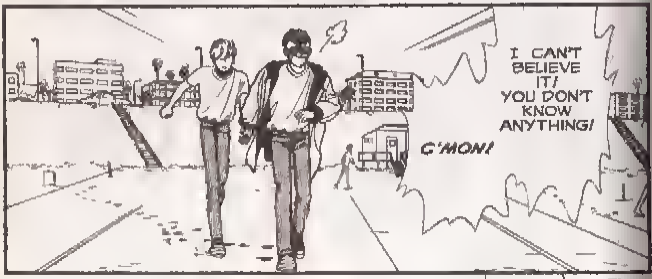
PSST
PSST
WHAT'S GOIN' ON? WHY ARE YOU ALL HERE?
WHA ...?
HEY, EVERY-BODY!
MARK'S HERE!

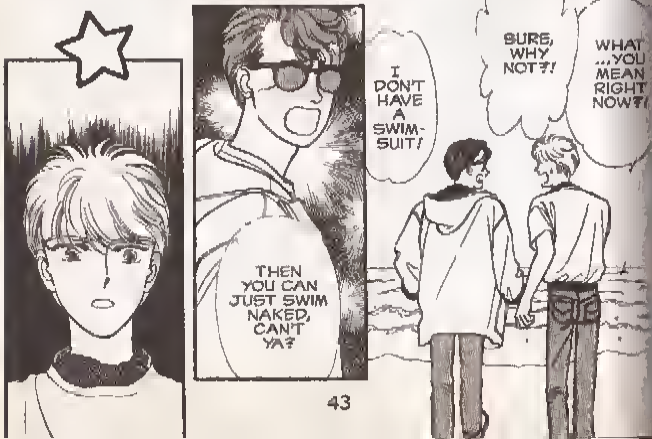

HA HA HA HA
BS SSH WAH!
CONGRATU-LATIONS, MARK!
HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
YOU TOO, BUSTER!
HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
I BET THIS WAS ALL YOUR IDEA, HAL!
THANKS, DUDE!
SPL
AGH!
USH
YOU GOT IT!
C'MON, YOU TWO. GOTTA CHANGE YOUR CLOTHES.
WE'LL WASH AND DRY YOUR STUFF BY THE TIME YOU GO HOME.

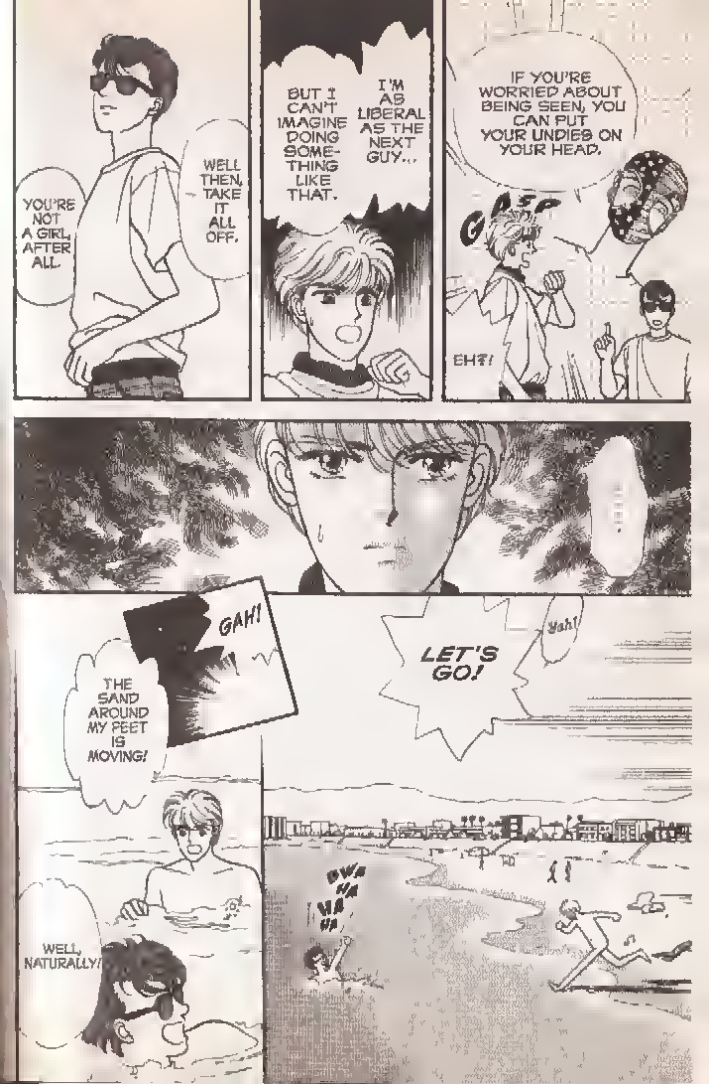
IT'S A LITTLE OLD SCHOOL, BUT LET'S MAKE IT A TOGA PARTY.
LET'S GO WITH IT!
We've got plenty for everybody.
GOOD ONE, ROY-MEDEUS.
OKAY, MARK-AMEDES.
Sheets
NOW IT MAKES SENSE.
I THINK I SEE HOW HE WRECKED HIS SHED ON HALLOWEEN.
OF COURSE!
DO YOU LIKE IT?
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I DANCED.
LET'S DANCE, MARK!
HEY, WHAT ARE YOU TWO DOING?

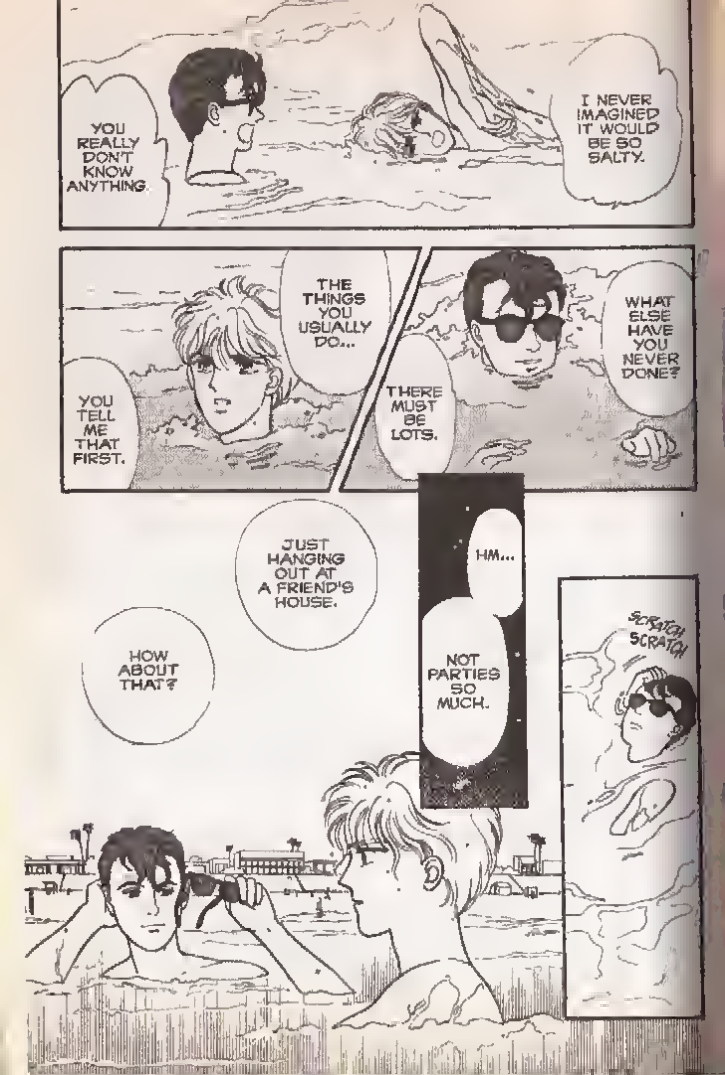

YOU'RE SUCH A BLOCK-HEAD.
YOU SHOULD DO THIS MORE OFTEN!
I FORGOT HOW MUCH I LIKED IT.
JOSE.
DOLORES.
SERENA.
IRWIN.
EVE.
YEAH, FOR SURE! I NEVER THOUGHT WE'D DANCE TILL MORNING.
I MADE A BUNCH OF FRIENDS ALL AT ONCE.
AND I LOST FIVE POUNDS, TOO.

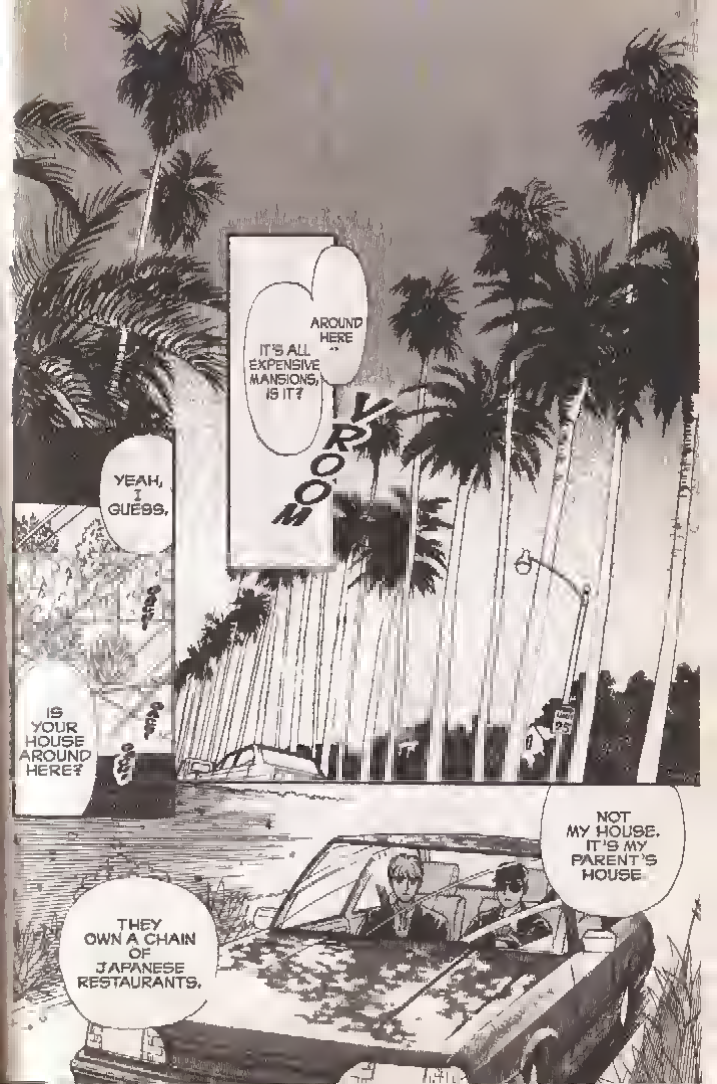

SCREECH
I'VE NEVER BEEN SWIMMING IN THE OCEAN.
WANNA GO FOR A SWIM? THAT'LL BURN SOME MORE CALORIES.
THERE'S ALREADY SOME PEOPLE OUT THERE.

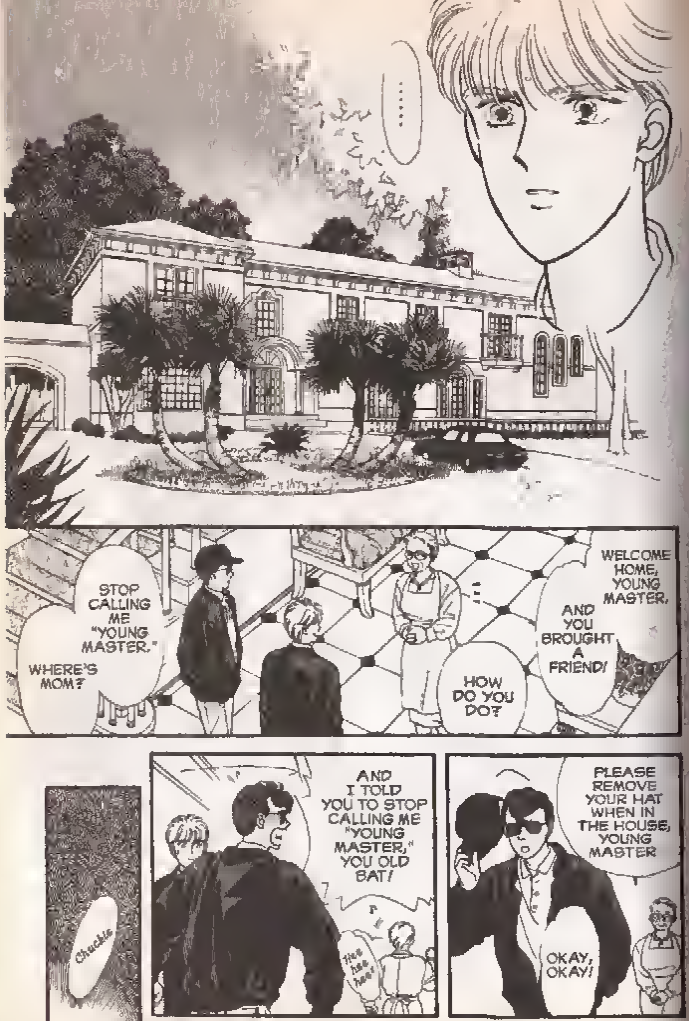

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING!
C'MON!


I DON'T HAVE A SWIM-SUIT!
SURE, WHY NOT?!
WHAT ...YOU MEAN RIGHT NOW?!
THEN YOU CAN JUST SWIM NAKED, CAN'T YA?


YOU'RE NOT A GIRL, AFTER ALL.
WELL THEN, TAKE IT ALL OFF.
BUT I CAN'T IMAGINE DOING SOME-THING LIKE THAT.
I'M AS LIBERAL AS THE NEXT GUY...
IF YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT BEING SEEN, YOU CAN PUT YOUR UNDIES ON YOUR HEAD.
GASP
EH?!
GAH!
THE SAND AROUND MY FEET IS MOVING!
LET'S GO!
Yah!
WELL, NATURALLY!
DWA HA HA HA


I NEVER IMAGINED IT WOULD BE SO SALTY.
YOU REALLY DON'T KNOW ANYTHING.
WHAT ELSE HAVE YOU NEVER DONE?
THERE MUST BE LOTS.
THE THINGS YOU USUALLY DO...
YOU TELL ME THAT FIRST.
HM...
NOT PARTIES SO MUCH.
JUST HANGING OUT AT A FRIEND'S HOUSE.
HOW ABOUT THAT?
SCRATCH SCRATCH


IT'S ALL EXPENSIVE MANSIONS, IS IT?
AROUND HERE...
VROOM
YEAH, I GUESS.
IS YOUR HOUSE AROUND HERE?
NOT MY HOUSE. IT'S MY PARENT'S HOUSE.
THEY OWN A CHAIN OF JAPANESE RESTAURANTS.


.....
WELCOME HOME, YOUNG MASTER.
AND YOU BROUGHT A FRIEND!
HOW DO YOU DO?
STOP CALLING ME "YOUNG MASTER."
WHERE'S MOM?
PLEASE REMOVE YOUR HAT WHEN IN THE HOUSE, YOUNG MASTER
OKAY, OKAY!
AND I TOLD YOU TO STOP CALLING ME "YOUNG MASTER," YOU OLD BAT!
Fix his hair!
Chuckle

THIS IS MY MOTHER
THIS IS MY NEW ROOMMATE, ROY RANG.
HOW DO YOU DO?
OH.
DON'T CALL HER AN OLD BAT, HAL.
FINE.
HEY, MOM. HOW ARE YOU DOING?
WELCOME BACK!
HAL!
SHUT UP!
YOU LOOK SO CUTE WHEN YOU'RE TALKING TO YOUR MOM.
AH, WHAT FOR? I'LL SEE HIM AT DINNER, WON'T I?
GO SAY HI TO YOUR FATHER.
I'M CATHY! PLEASED TO MEET YOU!
OH, WOW! IT'S THE REAL CIPHER!

NEW MINNIE SHOW
CEL-HITS
EVEN YOU'VE SEEN HIM, HAVEN'T YOU?
ON THE MINNIE SHOW! AND HE WAS ONE OF THE BURTON TWINS!
IS HE REALLY THAT FAMOUS?
OF COURSE! DON'T YOU KNOW?
UH...
HEY!
THAT WAS YOU?!
YOU KNOW IT?
SURE, I KNOW IT! THE BURTON FAMILY TWINS!
THEY WERE REAL BRATS!
I COPIED THAT IN OUR OWN YARD!
YOU HAD A TREE HOUSE!
IT'S STILL UP BACK THERE.

WOW!
REALLY? I NEVER KNEW THAT.
MINE WAS BUILT IN A STUDIO.
MAN! YOU EVEN HAVE A LAMP!
BUT I CAN'T REALLY USE IT. IT DRAWS INSECTS.
I hate bugs

I NEVER REALIZED YOU WORKED SO DILIGENTLY SINCE YOU WERE A KID.
NOW I SEE HOW YOU HAVE SO MUCH MONEY.
YOU...
...ONLY STOP ACTING WHEN YOU ARE HOME.
GIVE ME A COME-BACK, AT LEAST!
HEY, I'M TALKING TO YOU!
DON'T TRY TO TAKE ON TOO MUCH ALONE.
AT LEAST NOT SO MUCH THAT IT WEARS YOU OUT.
YOU KNOW, HAL
I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY YOU SPEND SO MUCH TIME TELLING ME WHAT TO DO.

DAD'S ANGRY!
BIG BROTHER!
THAT'S WHAT I DON'T UNDERSTAND ABOUT YOU!
HOW COME YOU DON'T JUST TRUST THE PEOPLE AROUND YOU?
I DON'T BELIEVE IT!
ARE YOU EVEN LISTENING, HARUOMI?!
YOU SHOULD HAVE COME TO ME FIRST THING YOU GOT HOME!
YOU STARTED PLAYING AROUND WITHOUT EVEN GREETING YOUR FATHER!
Earrings

THE VOICE OF ELLIE IN THE ANIME SOUNDS JUST LIKE THE REAL CAT. ELLIE I HAVE AT HOME. SHIN AND CIPHER'S LINES HAVE ENGLISH SUBTITLES. (IT WAS A WILD COINCIDENCE THAT THE GUY WHO VOICED THEM WAS NAMED JAKE!) THE TITLE WAS CIPHER, BUT SHIN TURNED OUT TO BE THE MAIN CHARACTER. IF YOU'RE INTERESTED, PLEASE GIVE IT A LOOK.

× × ×

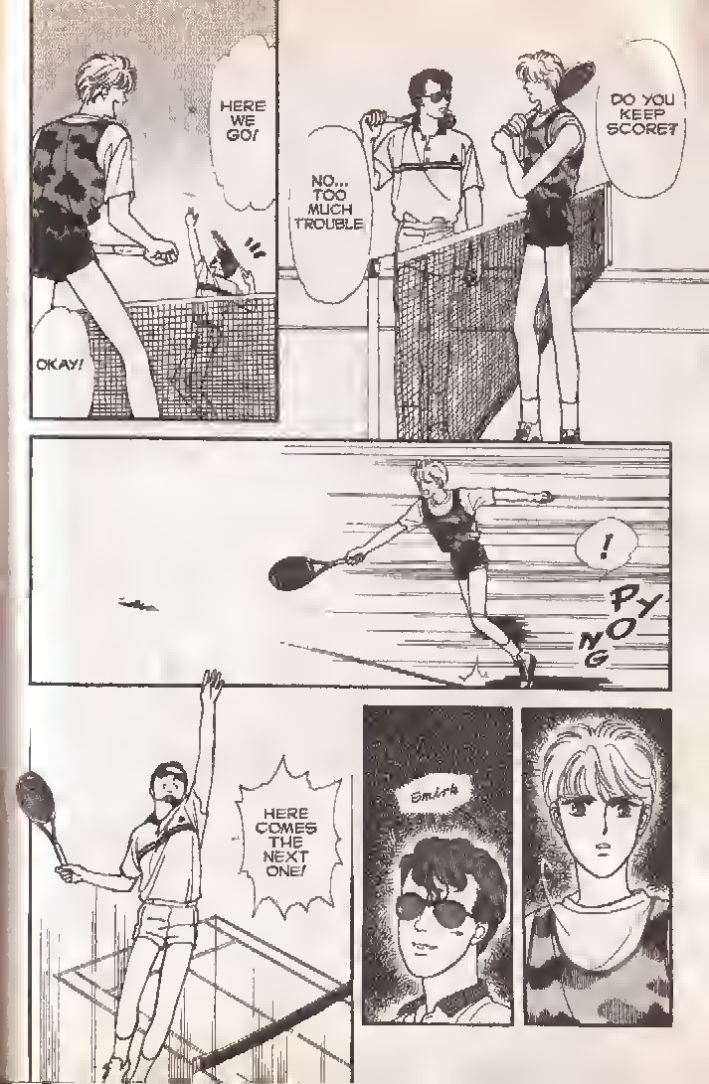
ONE MORE THING. TO ALL OF YOU OUT THERE READING THIS WHILE PREPARING FOR YOUR SCHOOL EXAMS OR LYING IN HOSPITAL BEDS...

HANG IN THERE!

See You Again,

1998 HALLOWEEN

I DON'T KNOW THE REAL RULES, BUT I CAN SWAT THE BALL AROUND.
DO YOU PLAY TENNIS?
LET'S STAY OUTSIDE ALL DAY TOMORROW.
OKAY
TOMORROW TENNIS!

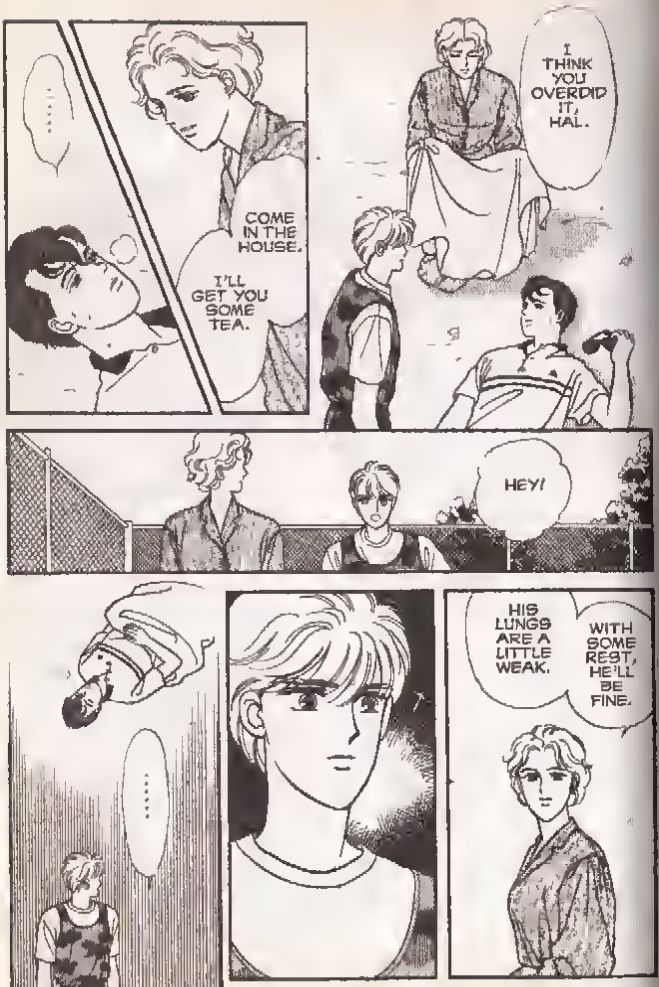

HERE WE GO!
OKAY!
NO... TOO MUCH TROUBLE
DO YOU KEEP SCORE?
!
PYONG
HERE COMES THE NEXT ONE!
Smirk

I ACTUALLY THOUGHT ABOUT GOING PRO FOR A WHILE.
HEH HEH
YOU SERVE, DUDE!
WHAT DIFFERENCE WOULD THAT'VE MADE?
YOU SHOULD HAVE TOLD ME THAT BEFORE!
WH
AP
AMBIDEXTROUS
HE'S GOOD!
OH !!!

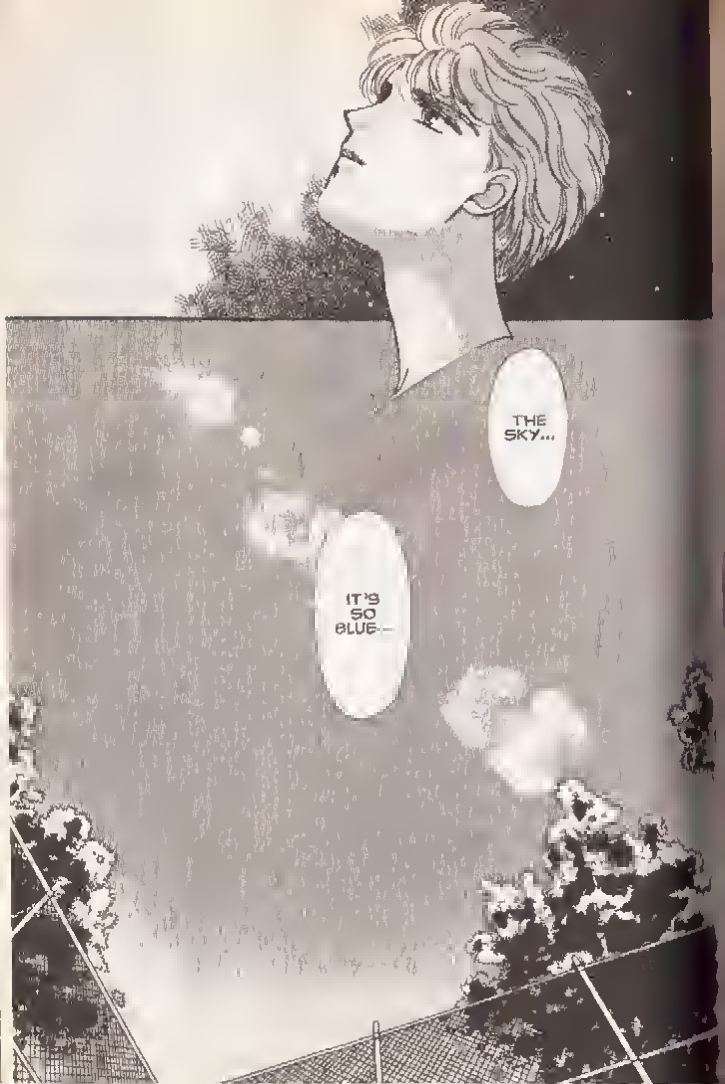
TAKE THIS!
UGH!
THUP
OUF!
HMP
.....
POWER TENNIS

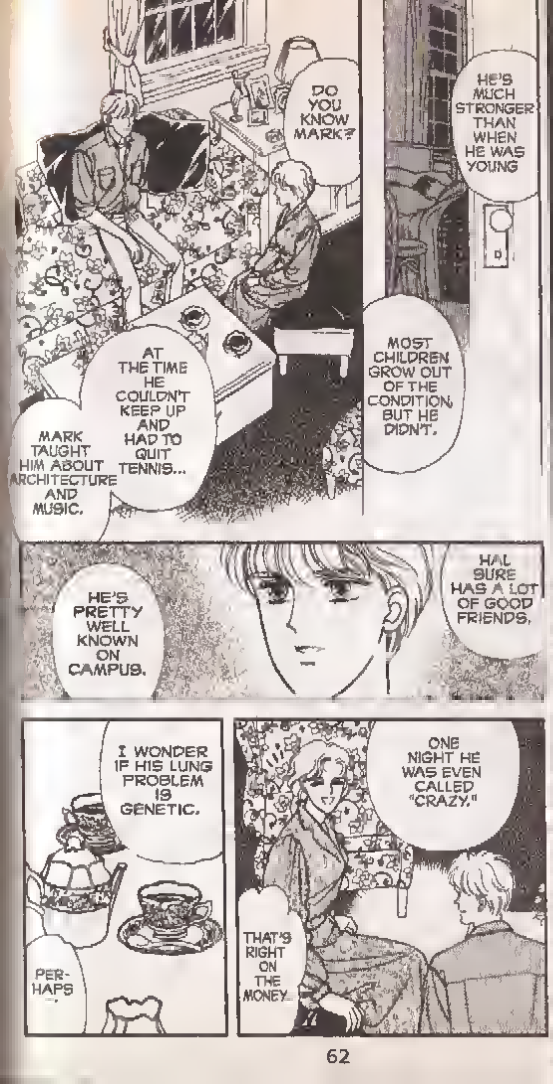
.....
PING
PONG
THEY'RE REALLY GOING AT IT
WILL HE BE ALL RIGHT?
WH
AM
HALT!
GIVE UP?
HAD ENOUGH?
HOW ABOUT THAT?

HAL?!
I'M JUST ...
SHUT UP
UGH ...
WHAT'S WRONG, HAL? ARE YOU PLAYED OUT?
HUH?
... MOM.
DON'T TELL ..
TMP
I'M FINE!
IDIOT!
YOU ...
DO YOU FEEL ALL RIGHT?!


I THINK YOU OVERDID IT, HAL.
COME IN THE HOUSE.
I'LL GET YOU SOME TEA.
HEY!
HIS LUNGS ARE A LITTLE WEAK.
WITH SOME REST, HE'LL BE FINE.

IT'S OKAY. IT'S NOT SO BAD.
GIVING UP TENNIS, I MEAN.
DON'T... WORRY
JUST LEAVE ME ALONE.
I'LL STAY HERE.
I GOT INTERESTED IN ARCHI-TECTURE
AND I STARTED TO LIKE COMPUTERS
AND I MADE MY CURRENT FRIENDS.
I'M NOT FOOLING THIS TIME.
GO ON, LOOK UP.
GASP
!
THESE ARE THE KINDS OF THINGS I'VE FIGURED OUT.
LOOK UP.

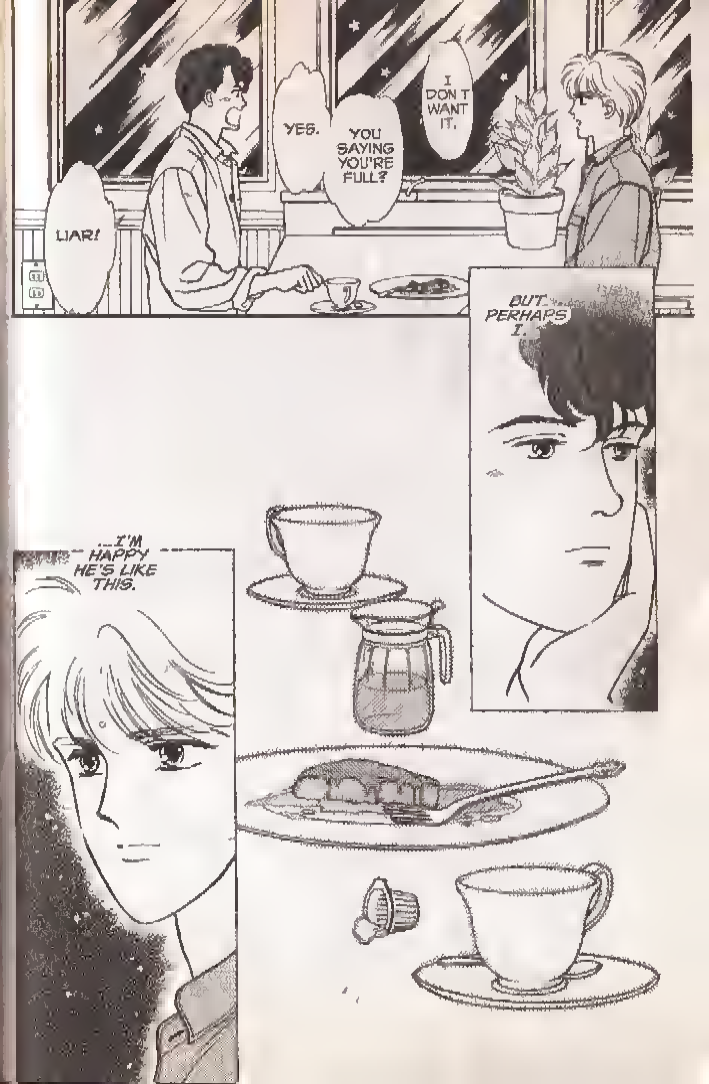

THE SKY...
IT'S SO BLUE--


DO YOU KNOW MARK?
HE'S MUCH STRONGER THAN WHEN HE WAS YOUNG
MOST CHILDREN GROW OUT OF THE CONDITION, BUT HE DIDN'T.
AT THE TIME HE COULDN'T KEEP UP AND HAD TO QUIT TENNIS...
MARK TAUGHT HIM ABOUT ARCHITECTURE AND MUSIC.
HE'S PRETTY WELL KNOWN ON CAMPUS.
HAL SURE HAS A LOT OF GOOD FRIENDS.
I WONDER IF HIS LUNG PROBLEM IS GENETIC.
PER-HAPS...
ONE NIGHT HE WAS EVEN CALLED "CRAZY."
THAT'S RIGHT ON THE MONEY.

"DON'T TELL MY MOM."
THAT MUST BE WHY.
YOU SHOULDN'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
I DOUBT THAT'S TRUE.
MINE ARE WEAK, TOO.
THAT MAY BE WHERE HE GOT IT
HAL...
WE'RE ALL GOING OUT TO PLAY.
DON'T LEAVE ME!
DAMN IT!
C'MON, WAIT!

OH ...
ARE YOU AWAKE, HAL?
THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I GET TOO TIRED.
UH ...
IT'S THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT.
AFTER THREE ..
WHY ARE YOU SLEEPING THERE?
I GUESS I FELL ASLEEP WHEN I WAS READING.
SO WHY WERE YOU SITTING THERE READING LIKE...
GURU
RURU
GROWL

HMM..
IS THIS THE SYRUP?
THANK YOU.
YOU EAT SOME, TOO.
DON'T WORRY, I WILL.
I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE HARD TO DEAL WITH A GUY THIS WORRISOME.
HERE'S THE LAST SLICE
FINISH IT OFF
RIGHT AT FIRST...
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO WAS HUNGRY.
EAT MORE!


LIAR!
YES.
YOU SAYING YOU'RE FULL?
I DON'T WANT IT.
BUT... PERHAPS I...
...I'M HAPPY HE'S LIKE THIS.

HOW COME?
I DON'T WANT TO SEE PICTURES OF MYSELF.
KNOCK IT OFF.
Books Kinokuniya, Level 3/F
BECAUSE I LOOK LIKE A GIRL.
HERE IT IS!
YOU DON'T NEED TO BE WORRIED ABOUT THAT.
BEAUTY IS BEYOND GENDER.
What...
...does that mean?
IT'S IN HERE, LEVIN!

HEH